**Project Title: Ilm / Literacy Hut orعلم گھر**

The concept of literacy hut is nested in the fact that literacy is a process that starts from cradle and remains till perpetuity, with disregard to age, gender, race or color. If this stands true, binding education to a formal methodology, like 8am-1pm etc loses its essence. Seen for a developing country like Pakistan where Urban literacy rate stands at 60% (and by all means this reflect only the ability to read and write one’s name, without the concept of understanding, analyzing etc), and for rural areas this will be well below half of this figure, an out of box solution and means need to be employed to make **“literacy work in a domestic and meaningful manner”**.

Literacy Hut is the solution to this matrix, in the face of overwhelming problems at hand. As of today, there is no possibility for left over adults in our society to engage in education as circumstances earlier did not allow them to avail this basic necessity of life, out of school children have no way to gain education courtesy either the ignorance of their parents or the lack of financial backing to undertake education, women and girls alike end up being victim to ignorance, medieval tradition which stops them short of reaching out to a trusted institute and environment. More importantly, the available resources under the categorization of **“education”** are nowhere close to produce scholars with the thrust of learning, having been limited to course learning and traditional means. Taking a categorical overview of this reveals that the present system fails to take into its fold the adult, without regard to their age group, gender etc. By this, the implication flows down to the basic targeted group, the children who remain out of the school, as well as those who end up at school but fail to acquire **“education”**, which I find no better words to define than what renowned Swiss children development expert used

**“The goal of education is not to increase the amount of knowledge but to create the possibilities for a child to invent and discover, to create men who are capable of doing new things”**

The literacy hut will be a place, rooted within existing school system in underprivileged areas that will serve as a nursery for all such leftovers and deprived. It is a place of wisdom, learning, reading, writing and socializing in a meaningful manner for all ages, sex and groups. But the core will remain education, and acceptance of education as the most vital element to progress and prosperity. A simple literacy hut will feature a structure, pre-fabricated, earthquake resistant, and insulated from heat and cold with an ideal dimension of 20x40 Feet’s. The hut, in view of its intended service, will feature racks containing books (1x hut to have a stock of 500 books in local, Urdu and English language), general knowledge, encyclopedia, Britannica, dictionary and newspapers. For seating inside the hut, there will be a stock of approximately 10x folding chairs. 1x white board will also be part of the hut, and owing to its multi-functionality and informal structure, an extension of weather resistant mat from top will enable the sitting to be extended outside to accommodate more audience. The hut itself is self-sustainable, with green and renewable energy from solar panel (300 watts) powering at least 3x LED lights, 2x fan and multifaceted charging port for laptop etc.

The core of this hut will be the facilitator, in this project termed as **“Community Literacy Facilitator”**. The hut ideally will have two CLF’s, one female and one male. The credentials for CLF includes already working teacher at the targeted school where Literacy Hut will be established, a member of the local community, enjoying very good reputation among the locals. However above all, the core credential for CLF is the understanding of the vision, and an urge to serve as the gateway of literacy to the community he has been assigned to. The CLF will work on volunteer basis, however for 1st year a meager payment against maintenance of hut will be paid. After this, the concept will have self-sustainability through community based contribution for the preservation and functioning of literacy hut on volunteer basis (In detail elaborated in last paragraph).

To start with, a total of 30x huts will be established in 3x districts of Sindh and Punjab, namely Ghotki, Rawalpindi (Rural) and Rahim Yar Khan. The CLF will be regulated, trained, monitored and supported through a central structure and dedicated desk, which will be the Community Welfare School and College at Mirpur Mathelo, being managed by SWF since 2011. Initially, a two week training will be conducted for the 60x CLF’s on managing the hut, utilization of books and reading material, conducting of daily literacy/ reading sessions and reaching out/ mobilization in the community. This training will equip the CLF in implementing the model at first stage. A refresher session will be conducted after three months, converging all CLF’s with their experience and way forward for more and more engagement. On completion of six months, the in-house rotation of stock (all reading material) will take place between the huts, so that the databank of 15000 books is utilized by all huts at various times. This will be followed by Grand Olympiad of community members and students at the Community Welfare School after 6 months, which will feature art, reading, writing competition along with other engagements. The best hut will be declared based on the performance through Olympiad. Technology will be utilized as every hut will have a laptop and sound system for literacy session, loaded and disbursed by central desk on themes ranging from general knowledge, children stories, rhymes, history etc.

The huts themselves will serve as a full time library to the schools as well where they are based, embedding special library periods into the timetable for engaging student in interactive learning. Based on this, the hut will be home to formal and informal learning, engaging adults (Men and Women) through reading session of newspaper and general knowledge daily (30 minutes prior to the start of school timing), reading session of children books for out of school children, and a special program for young adult (male and female) for preparation for middle, secondary and higher secondary grade exams through learning sessions. In all, the hut will become centric with learning in a formal and informal manner, engaging all across the board.

Sustainability, remains the key to this idea as has been with all successful development sector initiatives. **The hut, is for the community, owned and operated by the community**, and sustained through the community. The CLF holds the bridge between the community and the hut, as well as the wealth of knowledge it has in place for every segment. CLF, in close coordination with SWF will form on volunteer basis, the **Literacy Advancement Committee (LAC)**, registered with local administration. The LAC will comprise of community members, with equal representation to women, adults and men. The hut themselves, in view of the structure and books life is operational for at least 15 years, and at max the maintenance of hut per month, limited to newspaper, stationery etc is safely placed at Rs 3000 or $ 30. The LAC, through its roots in the community, will materialize the resources from the community members, whose children, wives or themselves are reaping the fruit of prosperity from the Hut. Just to quote, a box which is very common in our society, having title **“Maintenance Contribution/ Literacy Hut”** is ideal to secure resource in multiplication of the required sum of Rs 3000. As of project cost, the hut with all accessories plus book is estimated at $4000/- per unit (30 Huts). Operational cost for 5 years including dedicated team, training, follow up sessions, training material, inter hut competitions, Olympiads and liaison is estimated at approximately Rs 10-12 million. The latter, excluding huts (30) will be offered by SWF as its share to the project while funding for huts ($120,000) is requested from Global Giving and Other Donors.

**Flow Chart**

The L-H Index Matrix

L-H Target & Outreach